(f) No, Sir. There is no proposal at present to hand over the DMS to the private sector.

(g) and (h) Do not arise in view of (f) above.

Fish Production

*345. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) production of fish in the country;

(b) what is the percentage of total fish production which is exported;

(c) how the marketing and price fixation takes place in the country;

(d) whether Government propose to provide cooperatives for fishermen to ensure remunerative prices for the fish; and

(e) details of welfare scheme for fishermen so far launched by Government?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM

(a) and (b) The production of fish in the country in 1991-92 is 41.57 lakh tonnes and 7.5 per cent of it was exported.

(c) The fishermen/fish farmers sell fish to contractors or wholesalers or through commission agents to wholesalers or intermediaries or retailers.

The price of fish in the market is determined either through open auction or through bilateral bargaining in the wholesale market and on the basis of demand and supply position in the retail market.

(d) The National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) provides financial assistance to the fishermen cooperative societies through the concerned State Governments/UTs for establishment of necessary infrastructural facilities for fish procurement/preservation, processing, transport and marketing to enable the fisheries cooperatives undertake marketing and thereby ensure remunerative prices to the fish producers. A central scheme to provide infrastructural facilities to State Governments for their fisheries corporations, marketing organisations and cooperatives is also being implemented by the Government.

(e) Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Welfare of Fishermen:

(i) Active fisnermen, who are members of cooperatives, are insured for Rs. 25,000/- in case of death or permanent disability and for Rs. 12,500/- for partial disability, and the premium is paid by the Government of India and the State Government concerned;

(ii) Civic amenities such as housing, drinking water and construction of community hall for fishermen are provided in the model fishermen villages; and

(iii) Relief during the 4 lean months is provided to marine fishermen @ Rs. 270/- per month. Fishermen contributes Rs. 360/- @ Rs. 45/- per month during the 8 good months and Central and State Governments provide Rs. 360/- each bringing the total collection to Rs. 1080/-.

Use of Low Cost Housing Technology

*346. SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government adopted a National Housing Policy, if so, what are the salient features of this Policy;

(b) whether there is any effort to use low cost housing technology and alternate building material for low cost hous-

ing as the present cost of house offered to low paid employees is on a very high side, if so, the result thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government have instructed its own agencies for using innovative cost effective technologies in the construction of their own building, if so, with what results; and

(d) whether Government have any plan to use low cost technology and material for construction of houses in large numbers for the weaker sections of the society, if so, when these schemes will be taken up and if not the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SMT. SHEILA KAUL): (a) The National Housing Policy, as approved by the Government, was laid on the Table of the Sabha in Monsoon Session, 1992. The main features of the Policy are:—

(i) The Policy aims to assist people, in particular the houseless, inadequately housed and vulnerable sections, to secure for themselves affordable shelter through access to developed land, appropriate building materials, cost-effective building technology and increased infrastructure facilities, etc.

(ii) The Policy envisages a major shift in the role of Government at different levels from that of a direct builder of houses to facilitator of housing activities with responsibility for creating an enabling environment by eliminating constraints and by developing an efficient system for the delivery of various housing inputs.

(iii) At the same time, Government will continue to be responsible for providing assistance to disadvantaged groups like EWS, SC|ST, physically handicapped, households affected by natural calamities, poor widows, and single women in securing affordable shelter.

(iv) The role of non-Government agencies viz. private cooperative and individual, in increasing the output of housing has been duly recognised.

(b) to (d) The various Research and Development Institutions and Regional Research Laboratories have developed cost-effective design and construction technologies suitable for different geo-climatic regions in the country. The technologies are being disseminated to various parts of the country through the Building Centres set up under a Centrally-sponsored scheme. Various Government construction agencies, like CPWD, DDA and State Housing Boards, etc. are adopting innovative and cost-effective technologies for construction of houses wherever feasible. Central Public Works Department have since incorporated several new building materials, wood substitutes and cost-effective technologies in the schedule of specifications for adopting the same in their projects. The National Housing Policy stipulates the public construction agencies to draw up plans for the use of cost-effective technologies and materials to the extent of at least 10 per cent of the total annual construction. Various fiscal incentives have been announced in the recent budgets to encourage production of low-cost non-conventional building materials and on import of machinery for manufacture of such materials.

Housing being a State subject, programmes for construction of houses for EWS and other sections of society are undertaken by state agencies. However, State Governments have been advised to use cost-effective building materials and technologies in their housing schemes. HUDCO and NHB, who are extending finances for these schemes, have also been advised to promote the use of low cost technologies in the housing schemes of different States, particularly for economically weaker sections.